nature net

The NatureKenya Newsletter www.naturekenya.org November 2002

RECEIVED 28 OCT 2002 LIBRARY

OUTINGS

Kinangop North
Saturday 2 November '02

Enjoy o relaxing day on the grasslands of the Kinangop Plateau and the gardens of a guest house with spectacular views. Book at the Kenya Museum Society office, with your Nature Kenya membership card and 300/- (children 200/-)
Meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park to depart at 7:30 a.m.

Safaricom Race Day
Sunday 10 November '02
Visit the Nature Kenya stand!

GRASSROOTS

Monitoring the Health of the Environment – Local Communities in Kenya Taking the Lead

A novel approach to measure a healthy environment is being pioneered by local communities in Kenya, in partnership with Nature Kenya, BirdLife International, the Government of Kenya, the Darwin Initiative and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds of the UK. Local communities and Government staff will carry out this monitoring on the ground at 60 Important Bird Areas. The information they collect will be stored in a database at National Museums of Kenya, analysed and made widely available to help planners and decision-makers. The regular monitoring will alert government and non-government agencies to any important change in the health of our environment.

Researchers from the National Museums of Kenya and Nature Kenya have identified 60 Important Bird Areas in Kenya. Many of these are the country's major national parks and forest reserves, such as Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in Coast Province, Nairobi National Park in Nairobi, and Lake Bogoria National Reserve in Rift Valley. Others are unprotected sites such as the grasslands of the central and western highlands, and the swamps fringing Lake Victoria. These sites are crucial for the survival of endangered birds and other living things, according to international criteria.

Two workshops to train local communities and Government staff to monitor the health of the environment in the 60 Important Bird Areas will be held at the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute in Naivasha in November.

TALKS & VIDEOS

MZIMA: *Haunt of the River Horse*

Video premiere
Monday 9 December '02,
5:00 p.m. Louis Leakey HALL,
National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi

Thirty years after Alan and Joan Root's classic *Mzima: Portrait of a Spring*, Nature Kenya, in conjunction with the East African Wild Life Society, is proud to host the Premiere of this award-winning sequel.

The film reveals the intricate pyramid of life that a hippo school supports and the astonishing and sometimes shocking behaviour that is hidden beneath the calm surface of Mzima Springs. The team used a combination of scuba and specially designed remote cameras to get their lenses into the mouths of hippos and crocodiles to show revelatory and intimate behaviour - much of it new, even to science.

Husband and wife filmmakers Mark Deeble and Victoria Stone, assisted by Norbert Rottcher, spent over two years making this film, to which Alan Root is Executive Producer.

Mzima: Haunt of the River Horse was a collaborative project between the filmmakers and Kenya Wildlife Service. It has won over thirty international awards - including an Emmy.

Videos will be on sale, with all profits donated to wildlife conservation.

NATURE KENYA, P. O. Box 44486, 00100 GPO Nairobi Tel: 3749957 / 3746090 Fax: 3741049 E-mail: office@naturekenya.org

CLASSIFIEDS

IT SERVICES Computer, Printer & UPS Repairs, Service and Maintenance
Call Pinfosol.com Ltd. (Vuruku Mandu) Tel: 215887, 0733 260994

We make IT simple by providing 2nd opinion to your IT needs.

PLANT INDIGENOUS!

- Attract Butterflies and Birds
- We can supply one tree or a forest
- Over 80 species of Indigenous trees and shrubs
- Well grown in large polypots and ready to plant
- Lorge trees for 'special occasions'
- Visit the nursery for individual advice
- Dellvery to Nairobi

Contact: Carole Hemmings
0151 47332
hemmings@africaonline.co.ke

PERFORMANCE

Nairobi Music Society, NMS Choir, Cantobile, The Choir of Precious Blood School and Nairobi Orchestro, Conducted by Tony Davies , perform Foure's Requiem, Andrew Corter's Benedicite and Stravinsky's Rite of Spring

All Saints' Catheral on Saturday 9 November 7:30 p.m. & Sunday 10 November 3:00 p.m.

Admlssion:
Adults 300/- (250/- with NMS cards)
Students 50/-

Reach over **1000** members by advertising in Nature Net
Rates for Classifieds: • Up to 25 words 250/- • Up to 50 words 500/-
Ads • 1/4 page @ 1750/- • 1/2 page @ 3000/- with Image +500/-

DECLARATION

Nature Kenya does not accept any responsibility whatsoever in respect of negligence of any of its staff, volunteers or members organising the outings/trips or for any loss, injury, death or damage to property.

Illustration from The Safari Star Guide by Alex and Joy MacKay

EVENING SKY

By Alex and Ian MacKay and Fleur Ng'weno

On a clear, dark November evening, you can see other galaxies beyond our own. Try viewing them with binoculars, too.

November Stars

Look to the south. A very bright star, Achernar, dominates the southern sky on November evenings. It is about halfway between the horizon and overhead. Above Achernar, almost overhead and a little to the west, is another bright star, Fomalhaut.

On a clear, dark evening, look below Achernar, close to the southern horizon. There seems to be a small cloud low in the southern sky. This cloud, however, does not move. It is not really a cloud, but a galaxy of stars, known as the Small Magellanic Cloud. Another galaxy, the Large Magellanic Cloud, lies even closer to the horizon. These galaxies can only be seen from the southern hemisphere and parts of the tropics.

Now look north. Low in the northern sky is the constellation CASSIOPEIA, shaped like the letter "M". High above, almost overhead, is the great square of PEGASUS, with a star at each corner of the square. Look carefully between the great square and the letter "M". Look for a small, blurry patch of light, like a fuzzy star. This is M31, the Andromeda nebula. This "fuzzy star" is a great spiral galaxy, made up of billions of stars. M31 is bigger than our own Milky Way galaxy, and about two million light years away.

Planets, November 2002

No planets are visible in the evening.

Mars, Jupiter and Saturn can be seen in the morning before dawn. (Mars is near the moon on November 2.) In the second half of November, Venus, the brightest planet, rises in the sunrise.

Moon, November 2002

4 Nov *New moon* • 11 Nov *First quarter* (overhead at sunset) • 20 Nov *Full moon* (partially eclipsed before rising) • 27 Nov *Last quarter* (rises at midnight)

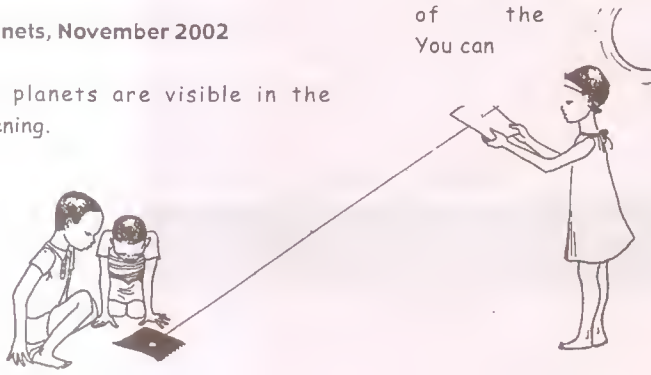
SOLAR ECLIPSE

On December 4, in the late afternoon, there will be an eclipse of the sun. The moon will move between the Earth and the sun, briefly blocking the sun's light. In East Africa it will be seen as a partial eclipse, which is much less dramatic. The sun's light is so bright that even with part of it blocked by the moon it still seems to shine brightly.

Do not try to look directly at a partial eclipse; the sun's light will damage your eyes, even with dark glasses. Instead, use a pinhole camera.

Take a piece of cardboard or stiff paper. Make a hole in it with a pin. Hold the paper so that it casts a shadow on the ground. Sunlight going through the hole should appear as a perfectly round spot of light on the paper's shadow. If the hole has wavy edges, it is too big, so make a smaller hole.

The round spot of light coming through the pinhole is an image of the sun. (You can see the same round spots among the shadows of leaves under a tree.) As the eclipse progresses, watch the round spot of light on the shadow of the paper. You can see a "bite" taken out of the sun as the moon moves across part of it.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

BIRD RINGING

Meet at the Museum, Nairobi Botanic Garden, at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday.

SUNDAY BIRDWATCH

Members meet at the National Museum, Nairobi car park at 9:00 a.m. the third Sunday of every month, **i.e. 17 November**. The members decide where to go. Bring lunch

TREE WALK

Guided Tree Walks in the Arboretum on the last Monday, i.e. **25 November from 9:30 a.m**. Meet at the FONA offices beside the Girl Guides HQ. *Those who are not members of FONA or Nature Kenya pay Ksh 100/- fee on arrival at the gate.*

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIRDWALKS

Bird watching walks at sites in and around Nairobi. Meet at the National Museum car park every Wednesday at 8:45 a.m. Return about 12:30 p.m. *Those who are not members can get temporary membership at Ksh 100 per birdwalk, payable on arrival at the car park.*

ARABUKO-SOKOKE (COAST)

The Saturday birdwatch with the Arabuko Sokoke Forest Guides Association is on the first Saturday of each month i.e. **2 November, at 6:30 a.m.** from the Visitor Centre, Gede. Cost 100/- per person.

FFJ Bird Walk (Coast)

Friends of Fort Jesus birdwalks are held the third Saturday of each month i.e. **16 November, at 4:00 p.m**. Please call Marlene Reid on (011) 491 648 to confirm

Ngong Road Forest Walks, Nairobi

The Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust Nature walks are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month i.e. **2 & 16 November, at 9:00 a.m**. Meet at the stairs leading to the Restaurant at the Racecourse.

NOVEMBER DIARY

Sat 2	ASF Birdwalks & NRF walk
	Trip to North Kinangop
Sun 10	Safaricom Race Day
Sat 16	FFJ Birdwalk & NRF walk
Sun 17	Sunday Birdwalk
Mon 25	Tree Walk
Birdwalks every Wednesday Morning	
Bird ringing every Thursday Morning	

Editor, **Catherine Ngarachu**

Bird Hotline 3749957

Sokoke Scops Owl, East Coast Akalat, Spotted Ground Thrush, Green-headed Oriole, Clarke's Weaver, *Arabuka Sakake Forest/ Oct* Calin Jackson, Brian Finch, Bernd de Bruijn, Itai Shanni, Shailesh Patel

Red-necked Phalarope, *Gongani/ Oct* Calin Jackson, Brian Finch, Bernd de Bruijn, Itai Shanni, Shailesh Patel

Broad-billed Sandpiper, African Skimmer, *Sabaki River mauth/ Oct* Brian Finch, Bernd de Bruijn, Itai Shanni, Shailesh Patel

Brown-headed Parrot, *Kilifi - Kaloleni/ Oct* Bernd de Bruijn, Itai Shanni, Shailesh Patel

Broad-billed Roller, *Nairabi Museum graunds/ Sept* Nature Kenya members

Woolly-necked Stork, *Rasslyn River Garden Centre/ Sept*
Wednesday Marning Birdwalk

African Hobby *Loresho/ Sept*
Bernd de Bruijn

Compiling Bird Lists?

Impartant Infarmatian far Camps, Ladges, Site Suppart Graups ar Pratected Area staff!

Are yau campiling a bird list far a camp, ladge, farest, wetland, bird sanctuary or pratected area?

Then cantact the Bird Cammittee af the East Africa Natural Histary Saciety at Nature Kenya far advice. Email affice@naturekenya.arg putting 'Bird Committee' in the subject line.

The Bird Cammittee publishes the autharitative *Check list of the Birds of Kenya*, manages the Kenya Bird Database, and is made up af representatives fram Nature Kenya and Natianal Museums af Kenya, Ornithalagy Department.

They will help yau ta make yaur bird list accurate and up ta date.

Needed : A Volunteer Coordinator for World Birdwatch

A challenging, high-profile position for a person who is good at organising, good at communicating, and willing to spend the equivalent of one day per week in the Nature Kenya office.

World Birdwatch is a premier global bird event, held on the first weekend of October every other year. The volunteer coordinator is needed from November 2002 for a period of one year. This post does NOT require a previous knowledge of birds! However, it requires dedication and flair.

For more information, please contact Catherine Ngarachu or Fleur Ng'weno in the Nature Kenya office.

Calling All Bird Guides

Are yau an experienced birdwatcher? Are yau interested in guiding visitars, taurists ar student graups wha want ta see Kenya's birds?

Then please send the fallawing ta Bird Guide Register at Nature Kenya:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phane/fax
4. E-mail cantact if passible
5. Summary CV including the fallawing :
a) Far haw many years have yau abserved ar studied birds?
b) Where ar haw did yau abserve ar study?
c) Have yau attended any special caurses? Which?
d) Haw much experience da yau have in guiding graups?
e) What languages (bath foreign and lacal) da yau speak?

6. Are yau available
a) part-time (ane day ar half a day)?
ar b) full-time (several days)?

7. Da yau have a driving license and are currently able ta drive a taur vehicle?
8. Are yau a member af the Kenya Prafessional Taur Guides Assciatian?
9. Optional: Minimum fee expected far ane day's wark.....

SCOPUS

Scopus is the journal of the Bird Committee of the East Africa Natural History Society, and has been published since 1977.

Scopus publishes original material on all aspects of ornithology from the eastern African region (Sudan south to Mozambique, Rwanda and Burundi and east to the Indian Ocean islands). Articles are peer-reviewed and consist of papers and short communications. *Scopus* is published as one or two issues per year, or as submissions dictate. There were recent gaps and delays in publication, but it is now back on track. The Editorial Board is composed of G. C. Backhurst, Dr L. A. Bennun, Dr L. Lens, Dr J. A. Lindsell, Dr D. J. Pearson, Prof D. E. Pomeroy, D.A.Turner.

All contributions for publication should be sent to the Editor, Dr Jeremy Lindsell.

E-mail to jeremy.lindsell@rspb.org.uk (if you are sending an attachment please make sure Scopus appears in the subject line of the email message). By post to Dr Jeremy Lindsell, c/o RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, UK.

Volumes 21 and 22 of *Scopus* are available from the Nature Kenya office at Ksh.500 each for Nature Kenya or Nature Uganda members, and Ksh.800 each for non-members. (Plus Ksh.200 for postage and handling if you wish them mailed to you.) Most previous issues are available as well.

To receive the next issue, *Scopus* Volume 23, please send Nature Kenya
- Cheque for Ksh 500 (Nature Kenya member) or 800 (non-member)
- Your name and mailing address
- Membership number and e-mail address if applicable

Postage within East Africa is included. If you live outside East Africa, please contact the Nature Kenya office or check our website, www.naturekenya.org

Scopus 21 July 2001 CONTENTS:

Jan C. Lavett and Siman N. Stuart. **Avifauna and vegetation of the Shume *Juniperus* forest in the West Usambara mountains, Tanzania.** pp 1-14.

Gerhard Nikalaus. **Weights and fat scores af migrating and wintering Blackcaps *Sylvio otricopilla* in the Sudan.** pp 15-18.

Martan Dehn and Lars Christiansen. **Additions to the known avifauna of the Rwenzori Mountains National Park in western Uganda.** pp 19-22.

J.D. Rassauw. **New records of uncommon and poorly known species for Ugandan National Parks and Forest Reserves.** pp 23-34.

Tam S. Ramdal. **Altitudinal distribution and obundance patterns of bird species in the Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania.** pp 35-54.

Short communications

P.W.P. Brawne and Lynette Brawne. **Probable Congo Bay Owl *Pholidus prigoginei* in Burundi.**

Calin Jackson, Leon Bennun and Gabar L. Lavei. **Unusual behaviour of a White-naped Raven *Corvus albicollis* with its Superb Starling *Lomprotornis superbus* prey.**

D.A. Ewbank. **Long-toed Plover *Vonellus crassirostris* foot-stirring.**

Norbert J. Cordeiro. **Noteworthy Tanzanian bird records from the Field Museum of Natural History.**

R. Glen and S. Stalberger. **Black-faced Red-Billed Hornbills *Tockus erythrorhynchus* in Ruaha National Park, south-western Tanzonia.**

R.J. Stafford. **Use of clearings by Humblot,s Flycatcher *Humblotia flavirostris*.**

Richord Jenkins. **Observations on the White-throated Rail *Dryolimnas cuvieri* in Madagascar.**

Scopus 22 August 2001 CONTENTS:

Luca Barhesia and Paul Kariuki Ndang,ang,a. **An avifaunal survey of Mt. Kulal, Kenya.** pp 1-12.

Marten Dehn and Lars Christiansen. **Comments on the accurrence of 15 Albertine Rift endemic bird species in the Rwenzori Mountains National Park, western Uganda.** pp 13-22.

Muchane Muchai, Lean Bennun and Luc Lens. **Notes on the behaviour and ecology of Sharpe,s Longclaw *Mocronyx shorpei*, a threatened Kenyan grassland endemic.** pp 23-28.

Marten Dehn and Lars Christiansen. **Altitudinal distributions af congeneric montane forest bird species along an elevational gradient in the Rwenzori Moutnains National Park, western Uganda.** pp 29-36.

Narbert J. Cardeira and Mwangi Githiru. **Birds of Mgambo Proposed Forest Reserve and other East Usambara lowland sites.** pp 37-48.

Tam S. Ramdal. **An ornithological survey of the Nguru Mountains,** Tanzania. pp 49-62.

Short communications

Janathan Rossouw and Jeremy Lindsell. **Black-throated Coulcal *Centropus leucogaster*: a first record for East Africa.**

Luca Barghesia and Paul Kariuki Ndang,ang,a. **Massive numbers of flamingos at Lake Logipi, November 1998.**

Phil Shaw. **Contact call of the Stripe-breasted Tit *Parus fosciiventer*.**

J.A. Lindsell. **A breeding record and behaviourai observation of African Green Broadbill *Pseudacalyptomeno groueri* in south-western Uganda.**

M. Mallalieu. **Grey-olive Greenbuls *Phyllostrephus cerviniventris* in and near Meru National Park.**

T.B. Oatley. **Some range extensions of birds in narthern Tanzania.**

Edward Hall. **Recent sightings of Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* and other uncommon intra-African migrants in Khartoum.**